in and around Washington, was in a fair way of ultimately attaining the cherished desire of its new commander and of becoming an army in fact.

McClellan's measures were equally judicious and effective. He selected in the first place a good staff, several members of which, notably Seth Williams, Irwin, and McMahon, attained distinction in that line of the service in the course of the war. General Barnard was the chief engineer of the army; General Barry was the chief-of-artillery; General Stoneman was the chief-of-cavalry. All were competent and experienced officers. The Quartermaster, Subsistence and Ordnance Departments were also assigned to able and energetic officers, and all the machinery appertaining to a large army in the field was soon admirably arranged and under competent control.

Equally judicious were the steps adopted to turn the volunteers into good soldiers. " The new levies of infantry, upon arriving in Washington, were formed into provisional brigades, and placed in camp in the suburbs of the city, for equipment, instruction and discipline. As soon as regiments were in a fit condition for transfer to the forces across the Potomac, they were assigned to the brigades serving there." These brigades consisted of four regiments

each; and when their organization " was well estab-
lished, and the troops somewhat disciplined and in-
structed, divisions of three brigades each were
gradually formed."[2] " When new batteries of artil-
lery arrived, they also were retained in Washington

[1] McClellan's Report : 5 W. R., 12.